



East Chicago
WATERWAY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

East Chicago Waterway Management District

2015 Communicator

This Communicator is being sent to property owners along the East Chicago waterway being assessed an annual user fee.

About the East Chicago Waterway Management District (ECWMD)

ECWMD is a district created in 1994 in accordance with Indiana State law (I.C. 8-10-9) to, among other things, manage and supervise the industrial, commercial, and recreational development of the waterways in the City of East Chicago. ECWMD's boundary is formed by an imaginary line one-half (1/2) mile distant from the center line of any waterway in all directions. In 2010, the ECWMD began assessing user fees to accomplish its statutory purposes. For more information on the ECWMD, please visit our website at www.in.gov/ecwmd/.

The following is an update of ECWMD's two marquee projects:

- 1. East Chicago Waterways Clean-up Project**
- 2. Navigational Dredging Project**

Clean-up Project

Decades of industrial and municipal discharges have contaminated sediments in the Grand Calumet River and Indiana Harbor Ship Canal. Past sediment testing has detected contaminants ranging from ammonia, arsenic, cyanide, E-coli, PCB's, oil and grease, lead and pesticides to name a few. The contamination of the waterways has disrupted economic development and recreational use for decades.

In December of 2013, ECWMD entered into a Project Agreement with EPA under EPA's Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) program to perform a Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS) and Remedial Design (RD) for parts of the Grand Calumet River that have not been remediated and parts of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal that the Army Corps of Engineers does not plan to dredge for navigational purposes. See the figure below for an illustration of the project area.

Mission Statement

"The ECWMD Advances Economic and Recreational Use of the Waterways"

February 26, 2015



ECWMD hired Tetra Tech (TT) to provide the engineering and design oversight for the project. TT has extensive experience on similar projects along the Grand Calumet River with a great performance record with the EPA.

The remedial investigation is near completion. The feasibility study report that will evaluate all clean-up options and costs is expected to be completed in May/June of 2015. The remediation design technologies to be screened include dredging with on-site disposal, dredging with off-site disposal and capping. The final design may include several variations of these technologies in different areas of the project area.

To assure the final design/product has key stakeholder input, we will schedule two public meetings to solicit community and stakeholder input on the clean-up options. **The first stakeholder review meeting will be held with adjacent property owners (you and/or your representatives) which is scheduled for April 23, 2015, at 1:00 PM, at City Hall Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of 4525 Indianapolis Blvd., East Chicago, Indiana. If you plan to attend, please RSVP with Fernando Treviño at fntconsulting@aol.com, or 219-741-7714.** The second public meeting will be held with the community/public in late April/early May. Advance notices will be sent out once these dates are finalized. Please find attached a copy of the project Community Engagement Plan for additional information and your review.

We expect the project to be completed through the remedial design within the original schedule estimate of 2 years, by December 2015, and within the original budget of \$2,000,000. As a reminder, 65% or \$1,300,000 is committed by federal GLLA funds and the balance, 35% or \$700,000 are committed by the local sponsor/ECWMD. Primary funding for ECWMD's \$700,000 (35%) share is from collected annual user fees. The Legacy Act funding is a great opportunity to leverage local dollars for vital environmental projects, and in our case, will provide \$1.3 million (65% of the total funding) to accomplish the RI, FS, and Remedial Design.

The project team is working hard to leverage and secure funding for remediation activities under a similar cost share arrangement so remediation activities may begin as early as 2016.

Several Expected Long-term Benefits of Clean Waterways

- A reduction of toxics released into the Lake Michigan
- A reduction of human and ecological risks
- Improved aquatic habitat
- Improved water quality
- Improved conditions for fish and wildlife
- Improved aesthetics – clean environmental conditions will allow wildlife to thrive – birds, fish, and vegetation.
- Increase opportunities for business development and recreational use.
 - Studies of similar projects indicate a potential return of investment in the range of 6 to 1, including increasing property values.
 - A clean canal/river will enhance recreational opportunities and use.

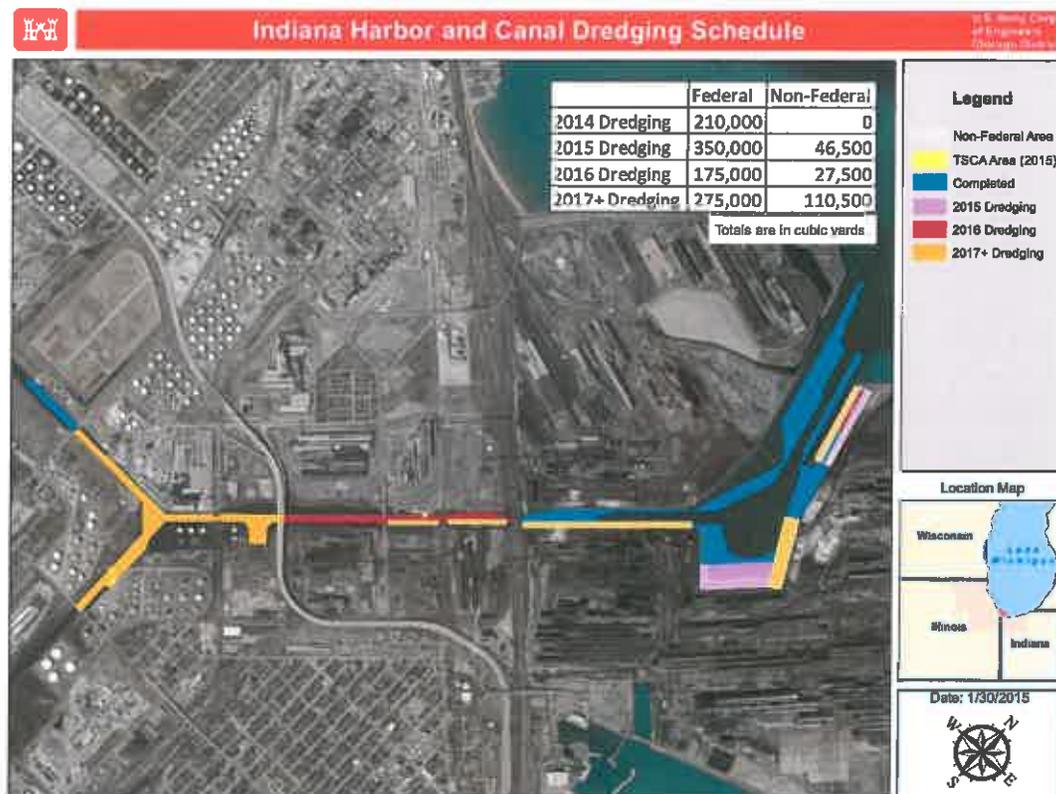
Navigational Dredging Project

Due to the contaminated sediment in the canal and a lack of a suitable disposal facility, the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal (IHSC) had not been dredged since 1972. The contaminated sediment in the canal is not suitable for open water disposal into Lake Michigan, nor is it suitable for unconfined upland disposal or beneficial use. The consequence of the inability to dredge for such a long period of time is a build up of sediment in the canal which impacts the efficiency of deep draft commercial shipping. To provide a suitable disposal site, the Army Corps of Engineers designed and constructed a Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) located in East Chicago with the current capacity to store up to 2.4 million cubic yards of dredged contaminated sediment from the IHSC.

The dredging project is designed to dredge and dispose of sediment in a way that is safe to human health, improves the environment, and is economically beneficial. The commercial benefit of the navigational dredging project will be a “deeper” canal enabling a more economical and cost effective means for deep draft commercial shipping through the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal. The navigational dredging will have fortuitous environmental benefits resulting from a cleaner canal which will be taken into consideration in the RI, FS, and RD process.

Following the completion of the CDF construction in 2011, the Corps began dredging the IHSC in the fall of 2012. Dredging activities continued in 2013 and 2014. To date, the Corps has dredged approximately 610,000 cubic yards of sediment. The dredging activities are scheduled to resume in

the spring of 2015. See figure below for more information regarding dredging work completed to-date and future planned dredging. **The Corps plans to have their annual dredging public meeting on March 18, 2015, at 6:00 PM, at 4444 Railroad Ave., East Chicago, Indiana, large conference room, please feel free to attend.**

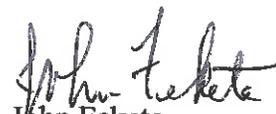


The ECWMD serves as the local sponsor to companies and private owners to facilitate dredging of their docks and/or property by the Corps – costs affiliated with these dredging activities and storage in the CDF are paid by the company/private owners. The ECWMD also communicates with the Corps the concerns and issues voiced by the local community and stake holders related to the dredging and CDF construction/maintenance activities. For additional information on the navigational dredging project, please visit the Corps’ website at www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorksProjects/IndianaHarbor.aspx

If you have any questions, concerns, or issues with the Dredging Project, CDF project/activities, or the clean-up efforts described above, or if you would like to learn more about the possibility of dredging material on or near your property, please contact Fernando M. Treviño, ECWMD Executive Director, at (mobile) 219-741-7714, or fmtconsulting@aol.com. You may also visit us at www.in.gov/ecwmd/.

Sincerely,


 Fernando M. Treviño
 ECWMD, Executive Director


 John Fekete
 ECWMD, President of the Board

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